

**REMARKS**

Upon entry of the instant Amendment, claims 1-8 are pending. New claim 9 has been added. Claims 1-2 and 7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 3-6 and 8 contain allowable subject matter and are objected to, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim.

In response to the Examiner's comments, claim 3 has been amended as suggested. In particular, claim 3 has been rewritten into independent form and includes the subject matter of previously submitted claims 1, 2 and 3.

Similarly, claim 8 has been amended as suggested. In particular, claim 8 has been rewritten into independent form and includes the subject matter of previously submitted claim 1.

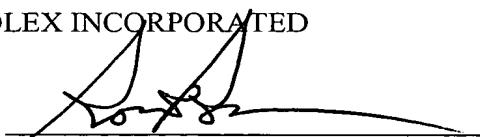
Claim 1 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). However, Applicant respectfully submits that there are elements of the claim that are not taught, suggested or implied by the cited reference, Takai (U.S. Patent No. 5,715,339). In particular, claim 1 of the instant application claims, *inter alia*, "adjusting the optical pulse transmission time by one of serially optically connecting delay optics with the relative pulse delay to at least one of the channels, except the slowest channel, to deskew the first channel relative to the second channel, wherein a temporal delay in the optical pulse transmitted through the slowest channel relative to a faster channel is used to determine a length of fiber to be removed from the slowest channel." In contrast Takai, is completely silent as to preventing the slowest channel from being connected to the delay optics and then removing a length of fiber from the slowest fiber. Furthermore, Takai explicitly teaches away from Applicant's invention by cutting all the cables so that all of the propagation times are in a predetermined region. Applicant only requires cutting a single channel (slowest channel) at a time.

In light of the above, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance, which allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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